

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated August 18, 2003. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 5-9, 37 and 41-42 are pending in the application. The amendments are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Summary of the Examiner's Rejections

Claims 1, 5-7, 9-10, 14, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McPherson (US 5,096,676).

Claims 5-6, 8, 14-17, 19-20, 37-39 and 41-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McPherson (US 5,096,676) in view of Cassin (US 5,910,287) and/or Knebel (US 6,503,456) and/or Turner (US 6,340,589) and/or Santarsiero (US 6,296,673).

Claims 1, 5-7, 9-10, 14, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hol (WO 00/00678) in view of McPherson (US 5,096,676).

Claims 5-6, 8, 14-17, 19-20 and 37-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hol (WO 00/00678) in view of McPherson (US 5,096,676) and in further view of Cassin (US 5,910,287) and/or Knebel (US 6,503,456) and/or Turner (US 6,340,589) and/or Santarsiero (US 6,296,673).

Claims 1, 5-7, 9-10, 14, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted Prior Art (FIGS. 2A-2C) in view of McPherson (US 5,096,676).

Claims 5-6, 8, 14-17, 19-20, 37-39 and 41-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Applicant's admitted Prior Art (FIGS. 2A-2C) in view of McPherson (US 5,096,676) and in further view of Cassin (US 5,910,287) and/or Knebel (US 6,503,456) and/or Turner (US 6,340,589) and/or Santarsiero (US 6,296,673).

Summary of Amendment

Applicants have cancelled Claims 10, 14-20 and 38-40 (without prejudice) and amended Claims 1 and 37 to more particularly define the present invention.